



## Arlington Tree Committee

Date: Wednesday, August 12, 2020

Time: 7:30pm

**Zoom meeting** – <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJlkf-utqz8rGtSmWPfDkvy2mqTirJhKNbXa>

### Minutes

In Attendance: Mary Ellen Aronow, Eliza Burden, Steve Moore, Mara Vatz, Susan Stamps, Keith Schnibly, Ed Trembly, Phil Tedesco, Tim Lecuivre,

1. *Review and Approve July Minutes*
  - a. Approved, as edited
2. *Design and Building Initiatives Impacting Trees –*
  - a. Mass Ave & Lake St Projects – Ongoing. Tim reported that trees were removed, path is being widened, and traffic signals installed. New tree planting for this will happen this fall or spring; tulip, linden, serviceberry are expected species. (Q's: who would water? Will there be spigots nearby?)
  - b. AHS – Landscape architect sent Tim planting plan; he will forward to ATC so we can submit comments to him if we have questions/concerns. Might want to check to see if there is a health care plan for these trees once planted. It is town policy to require a 2-year watering plan; need to make sure contract states this. Could Adopt-a-tree program be used so students (or a club) take on responsibility for tree care? DPW will be looking to AHS rebuild planning group for answers. **Action: Tim to forward planting plan to ATC. Susan Stamps will follow up with town to see what is in the contract.**
  - c. Whittemore Park – no update
  - d. Wellington Park – no update
  - e. Lussiano - initial work did not have any tree protection. Plan sent to Tree Warden was not specific. ATC noticed there was no tree protection in place when construction started, we reached out to Park/Rec head Joe Connelley, we forwarded our new tree protection guidelines to him, and he quickly responded by installing tree protection. **This highlights the need to make all town organizations taking on building projects (Rec Dept, schools, etc) that these guidelines exist and that the Town is very serious about protecting trees before, during and AFTER construction. ATC needs to:**
    - **provide tree protection guidelines to organizations in town**
    - **ensure that tree planting at new projects is done carefully**
    - **ensure that a tree care plan is in place so new trees thrive**

**Action: MEA will reach out to prior ATC members who talked to various town committees to educate them on tree guidelines.**

- f. Mirak Development. Nothing new discussed but we will be following this.
- g. 840 Mass Ave – can off berm program be used here? ATC will draft a letter to Mike to ask for this to happen - **Action: Eliza will attempt to reach out again to the Management company and draft a letter**
- h. New: Old Burial Ground wall restoration in Arl Center. Trees are damaging some of the historic markers and they need to take down 5 trees.

3. *DPW Tree Dept/Tree Warden Update*

- a. Wind event fall out - 4 August – lost 5 street trees. Gray & Highland, Winchester, Newport, Franklin. Damage was widespread. ATC was reminded that folks should call dispatch if town tree or large branch from town tree comes down: 781-316-3100
- b. Summer tree watering – approx. 80 trees adopted. Also, DPW summer help is helping watering trees 50 bags /day, and some additional staff helping after hours
  - i. Adopt-a-Tree (ATC continues to adhere yellow ribbons to adopted trees). Steve, Eliza and Susan offered to help.
- c. Tree hearing(s)
  - i. Sunnyside Ave – Tree Hearing Held – Large turnout resulted in engineering dept redesigning project so bump outs will be created to keep the trees.
  - ii. 42 Tanager. Norway Maple, engineering dept wants to fix a bump out for sidewalk widening. September 1. Advertising happening 8/13/2020.
- d. Tree Bylaw activity: Brattle Street was the last one.
- e. EAB treatment plans – Barret Tree East started on Monday treating trees, using organic treatment. Started on Sunnyside Ave (Broadway/Sunnyside) working toward Medford Street. Treated ash trees around Gibbs. Treated trees have a 'halo' around it on the Arlington Tree Inventory map. Deadwood on ash trees are being cut. Marquis Tree Service saw a limb by Hardy School that had some exit holes that look like EAB. Warden contacted the state and they are coming to look at what was found. Treatment plan may be adjusted toward areas that have EAB, if they are found. High risk, high heat areas are being targeted first. If trees are in poor condition, treatment is not happening. Would take 3 to 4 years to go around the whole town.
- f. Gas Leaks: 10, 15, 18 Old Colony Road found gas leaks. Most likely trees will need to be removed. National Grid has been alerted.

4. *Publicity/Community Outreach*

- a. Grant Writing
- b. ACMI interview/video ATC on 8/5 for Adopt-a-Tree Program. MEA worked with ACMI intern to create a video. She showed it at our meeting. Action: MEA will forward a link to this video.
- c. ACMI story with photo -- Community Canopy Program -NOT DISCUSSED
- d. ATC Google Groups, Facebook and Instagram
- e. ATC website - need to consider upgrade
- f. Correspondence received

5. *New Business*

- a. By Law review
- b. Next meeting, we need to follow up with Trees Please fund – monies coming in, monies coming out, and what \$\$ are being used to plant trees.

**Next meeting:** Wednesday, September 9.